Proposals for setting up Mini-Steel Plant in Punjab

1829. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received fresh proposals from the private sector for setting Up of a Mini Steel Plant in the State of Punjab;

(b) if so, the total investment offered in this project;

(c) what is the total additional capacity of steel production to be generated therefrom; and

(d) the details of Steel Plants proposed to be set up in the private sector in near future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) to (d) The iron and steel industry has been exempted from the purview of compulsory licensing. An entrepreneur wishing to set up an iron or steel unit does not require approval of Government for industrial licence unless the plant is proposed to be located within 25 Kms. from the periphery of the standard urban area limits of a city having a population of more than 10 lakhs as per 1991 Census.

As per the information available with Government, no proposal is pending for setting up a Steel Plant in the State of Punjab.

Setting up Steel Plant in Saurashtra

1830. SHRI CHIMANBHAI HARIBHAI SHUKLA: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have not accepted proposal to set up steel plant in the Saurashtra region of Gujarat;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government propose to reconsider the decision; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) No proposal has been received from Government of Gujarat to set up a steel plant in the Saurashtra region of Gujarat.

(b) to (d) Do not arise in view of reply at (a) above.

News paper report on Steel output

1831. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news item published in the 'Hindustan Times' dated the 1st February, 1995 under the caption "Steel output may hit 57mt by 2011 at current growth rate";

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what is Government's reaction Industry.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The news item in question relates to a report by a Task Force set up by the Government to prepare a 20 year action plan for growth of Iron & Steel Industry.

According to the report of the Task Force, the Indian Steel Industry has shown an average annual growth rate of 6.2 per cent during 1955 to 1990. If appropriate conditions can be created and sustained even for a similar growth rate over the next twenty years, India could be producing around 57 million tonnes of finished steel per annum by 2011-12 *A.D.*

(c) Government has taken a number-of steps in pursuance of the report of the Task Force. They include:—

(i) Creation of a Standing Committee under the Chairmanship of steel Minister. The Committee include Mem. bers of Parliament, major steel producers, representatives of various Government departments and Financial